

the loans. In each taluk the work of disbursing the loans should be entrusted to a small committee, consisting of two non-officials and the local Tahsildar. The loans should not ordinarily exceed Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 and they should be made repayable, with a nominal interest of 4 or 5 per cent., within a period ranging from 15 to 20 years.

2. The prices of the indigenous products of the country were going down. To remedy this, Trade Agents should be appointed in important commercial centres to find out markets for local products, as is done by the British Government and by the sister State of Mysore.

3. New public works should be taken up and executed with a view to relieve unemployment. The policy of Government in suspending works already provided for in the budget, on the plea of want of funds, was not at all desirable.

4. Better attention should be bestowed to make the Agricultural Department of the State of more practical use to the people. The amount now spent on the department, which is not even 75 per cent. of the State revenue, was quite insufficient.

5. The working of the Industries Department should be improved and it should be made more useful to the people. Cottage industries, such as weaving, should be encouraged.

6. Special attention should be bestowed on an equitable and proper administration of the State finances. All unnecessary appointments should be abolished. The pay of the high-paid officers should be reduced.

7. Immediate action should be taken on the lines of the recommendations made by the Banking Enquiry Committee.

41. Economic Depression.

MR. S. MATHEVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum taluk, Group II*) speaking in Malayalam referred to the economic depression of the country and the consequent poverty of the agriculturists who formed the major portion of the population of the State. Owing to the fall in the price of pepper, cocoanut, tapioca and other local products, the income of the agriculturists had been very much lowered. The population of the State was also increasing by rapid bounds, the increase being not less than one lakh every year. The rice and paddy imported from foreign countries were made available to the people only after a large amount under profit was shared by the dealers both inside and outside the State. With a view to remedy this evil, the Government should take up the business of exports and imports. The Government should purchase the local products at a tariff rate and should send them to foreign markets for sale. Similarly, they should import the necessary quantity of rice, paddy and other food-stuffs required for local consumption and sell them to the people with a small profit.